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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY China

DATE:

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SUBJECT Political Information: Repatriation of Russians,
Shanghai

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SUPPLEMENT

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25X1A ORIGIN

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letter of 16 October 1981 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
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With regard to repatriation desires, the Russians in Shanghai are divided into three groups:

- Those who have obtained Soviet passports and want to return to Russia at the first opportunity.
- Those who have obtained Soviet passports, but who do not want to leave Shanghai at this time.
- Those who, for political, economic, or other personal reasons, have not applied for Soviet passports.

Of these groups, the first mentioned is the largest. Because of the lack of immediate adequate transportation facilities, there is at present a large backlog of Russians waiting to leave. Previous reports give the second group as the largest.

2. Transportation

Two small steamers, the S. S. Smolny and the S. S. Emil Pougacheff, make the four to five day run from Shanghai to Vladivostok. Between them, they complete two or three trips a month. Capacity of each is about one hundred passengers, the majority of whom are Russians. The remainder are generally Chinese government officials.

3. Priority Allocation

Because of the large waiting list, it has become necessary to start a priority system for allocating passenger space. In general, precedence is established by age, with the youngest school children receiving the highest priorities, etc. As a result, since the trips were started in March, most of the passengers have been quite young.

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By this system these children are separated from their parents until the age group which includes the parents becomes eligible for space. In the interim the children are cared for by Soviet women aboard the ships and at the places to which they are sent in Vladivostok. Each child is provided with a two year supply of clothing by his parents, or by Soviet welfare agencies if the families lack the means (a good proportion). An interesting deviation from the age priority rule has been made in the cases of actors and musicians, who have been receiving preferential treatment regardless of their ages. A great many Russian actors have already left Shanghai or are planning to leave soon.

4. Plans for Returnees

Those Russians who are being repatriated or are awaiting repatriation frankly do not expect to return to Shanghai or to leave Russia for any other country within the foreseeable future. The children in the initial shipments are being placed in schools in the Vladivostok area and presumably will stay there until they are eligible for college, at which time they will go west to European Russia for their higher studies.

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